

Message Text

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16

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCCT-01 H-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

IO-10 CU-02 /044 W

----- 072860

R 251245Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4767

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJ: FURTHER REACTION TO DETENTIONS

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN 0797; (B) STATE 201358

1. AT ACTION MEETING ON CAMPUS, MID-DAY AUGUST 22 (PARA 4 REFTTEL (A)), UCT STUDENTS DECIDED (A) HOLD PLACARD DEMONSTRATION THAT AFTERNOON ALONG DEWAAL DRIVE (HIGHWAY THAT BISECTS CAMPUS); (B) PETITION UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES TO SUSPEND CLASSES FRO THREE DAYS AND REPLACE NORMAL LECTURE SCHEDULE WITH "INTENSIVE COURSE ON THE TERRORISM ACT" AND SIMILAR LEGISLATION; (C) CIRCULATE PUBLIC PETITION CALLING FOR RELEASE OF DETAINEES AND REPEAL OF TERRORISM ACT.

2. PLACARD DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD, ONLY UNTOWARD INCIDENT BEING SMASHINGOF SECURITY POLICE CAR WINDSHIELD, PRESUMABLY BY SOME STUDENTS (FOR WHICH SRC PRESIDENT DIRK KEMP APOLOGIZED TO AUTHORITIES), AND MANHANDLING OF ONE STUDENT IN ALTERCATION WITH POLICE. MONDAY, AUGUST 25, UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT AGREED TO SUSPENSION OF CLASSES.

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EM MEANWHILE, STUDENTS HAVE GONE AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR (A)

SILENT DEMONSTRATION AT MID-DAY AND IN AFTERNOON,
AUGUST 25, AT THIBAULT SQUARE (BETWEEN HEERENGRACHT HOTEL AND
BP CENTRE), FOR WHICH MUNICIPAL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED, AND
(C) PUBLIC MEETING AT RONDEBOSCH TOWN HALL, EVENING OF AUGUST 25,
WITH SPEAKERS FROM LIBERAL ORGANIZATIONS.

4. PRESS CARRIES TEXT OF PETITION TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE,
KRUGER, FROM 58 MEMBERS OF UCT STAFF, INCLUDING SEVEN PROFESSORS,
CALLING FOR "RELEASE OF ALL THOSE HELD WITHOUT TRIAL"
AND FOR PUBLIC ASSURANCE "THAT NO ONE HELD IN SOUTH AFRICAN JAILS
OR POLICE STATIONS WILL BE PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY ASSAULTED
IN ANY WAY".

5. SUNDAY EXPRESS, AUGUST 24, REPORTS MINISTER JUSTICE, KRUGER,
HAS PROHIBITED VISITS OF DETAINEES AND REFUSED TO DIVULGE WHERE
THEY ARE BEING HELD AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL BE CHARGED;
ALSO THAT HE TOLD PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY MP, ALEX BORAINÉ,
THAT "INVESTIGATIONS HAVE ONLY STARTED". ARTICLE SPECULATES THAT
ALL DETAINEES HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PRETORIA.

6. WEEKEND PRESS REPORTED 19 RHODES UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARRESTED
IN GRAHAMSTOWN ON AUGUST 23 WHEN POLICE BROKE UP MEETING OF SOME
150 STUDENTS PROTESTING DETENTIONS.

7. BEGIN LOU. I SPOKE THIS MORNING TO PRP LEADER VAN ZYL SLABBERT
WHO SAID HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DETECT ANY PATTERN TO DETENTIONS.
HE IS PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO POLLEY WHOM, HE SAID, HAD BEEN RATHER
RADICALLY INCLINED UNTIL 1972 STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN CAPE
TOWN BUT WHO HAD STEERED CLEAR OF INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL
CAUSES SINCE THEN. SLABBERT DID SPECULATE THAT DETENTIONS OF
FIVE LIBERAL WHITES MIGHT HAVE BEEN FOR PURPOSE OF REASSURING
RIGHT-WING WHITE ELECTORATE WITHIN WHICH PRIME MINISTER'S
POLICY DENTE WITH BLACK AFRICA IS CAUSING CONCERN.
(SLABBERT CALLED THIS VORSTER'S POLICY OF "RIGHT ON WHITES AND
LEFT ON BLACKS") END LOU.

8. WILL SEND TODAY CLIPPINGS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AT HAND AND
WILL SEND IN ADDITIONAL ONES AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

9. QUESTION OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION (PARA 3 REFTTEL (B)) DOES
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NOT ARISE AS DETAINEES HAVE NOT RIGHT TO ACCESS TO LEGAL COUNCIL
AND NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST THEM. IF ANY LAWYERS
IDENTIFY THEMSELVES PUBLICLY WITH DETAINEES, WILL REPORT.
GAMON

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